

Around the World

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Ban on Bugging Urged in Britain

LONDON—A government-appointed Special Committee on Personal Privacy recommended yesterday that use of "bugging" devices in Britain be made a criminal offense.

A government spokesman said Britain at present has no specific law against electronic eavesdropping, but has laws against breaking into homes or offices and interfering with telephone service.

Telephone taps can be legally installed here only with permission of the Home Secretary.

The committee said "there should be a new criminal offense of unlawful surveillance by surreptitious means." It said use of "electronic or optical devices to overcome a person's protection against being overheard or seen should be unlawful" and punishable by fine or imprisonment.